

In re Application of: Swift et al.
Application No.: 09/490,199

Remarks

In the application, claims 1 through 10 are pending. No claims currently stand allowed.

The Final Office Action dated January 4, 2005, has been carefully considered. The Final Office Action rejects claims 1 through 5, 11, and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for failure to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in light of U.S. Patents 6,298,383 (“Gutman”) and 5,623,601 (“Vu”). Claims 3 through 8 and 10 are rejected as obvious in light of Gutman, Vu, and U.S. Patent 5,913,025 (“Higley”). Claim 9 is rejected as obvious in light of Gutman, Vu, Higley, and U.S. Patent 6,081,900 (“Subramaniam”). Finally, claims 11 and 12 are rejected as obvious in light of Higley, Gutman, and U.S. Patent 6,198,824 (“Shambroom”).

In order to expedite prosecution, the offending element in claim 1 is removed, and claim 11 is cancelled, thus rendering the § 112 rejections moot.

The present application and the cited art deal with various aspects of proxy authorization schemes. To present a common background to these schemes, a “user” is granted permission to access a “target service.” (For consistency’s sake, the present discussion uses the terminology of the present application. Gutman, in contrast, calls the user a “domain” and reserves the word “user” for the “proxy client.”) Traditionally, the user must present his authentication credentials to the target service to prove that he in fact who he says he is and, thus, that he has the requisite permissions. In many of these proxying schemes, an application or service (called a “proxy client”) takes the benefit of the user’s permissions to access the target service in order to perform work for the user.

In the proxy schemes detailed in the cited art, the proxy client always acts as a go-between to facilitate live communications between the user and the target service. For example, in Vu a firewall prevents a user behind the firewall from directly communicating with a target service outside the firewall. A proxy client, using the authentication credentials of the user, logically sits on the firewall and communicates both with the user and with the target service. By serving as a communications pass-through, the proxy client allows the user to communicate with the target service almost as if the firewall were not there. The proxy schemes in the other cited references are similar, if not identical, to Vu.

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The presently claimed invention, on the other hand, differs significantly from all of the proxy schemes in the cited art. In the invention as presently claimed, the proxy communications are between the proxy client and the target service and *do not involve the user at all*. This type of operation is often called “batch mode” (see the present specification, page 2, line 7, through page 3, line 25). Before the proxy communications begin, the user sets up the authentication credentials and grants the proxy client permission to use them. The user, in most cases, is also responsible for requesting that the proxy client access the target service. During the actual course of the proxy communications, however, the user is out of the picture: The end points of the communications are the proxy client, acting with the user’s authentication credentials, and the target service. (The proxy client may, and probably will, provide status and completion information to the user.) Because the user is not directly involved, the user may wish to place limits on the extent of the proxy’s authority. The following element of independent claim 1 emphasizes this ability:

Claim 1: registering proxy authorization information regarding the user with a trusted security server, *the proxy authorization information identifying the proxy client and an extent of proxy authorization, the extent of proxy authorization comprising a restriction on a range of target services that the proxy client may access on behalf of the user;*

(Emphasis added.). This concept of limiting the authority of the proxy is discussed in the specification at, e.g., page 11, lines 7 through 9, page 18, line 15, through page 19, line 25, and page 22, lines 13 through 15. In contrast, the proxy in the cited art always acts in concert with the user, so it would not make sense in the scenarios contemplated by the cited art to limit the proxy’s range of authority.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of the remaining independent claim, claim 6. Claim 6 calls for the trusted security server to store the user’s authentication information:

Claim 6: A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for *a trusted security server to perform the steps:*

storing proxy authorization information from a user for authorizing a proxy client to act as a proxy of the user;

(Emphasis added.) This is clearly different from the portion of Gutman cited against claim 6 in the Final Office Action. That section (Gutman, column 2, lines 6 through 10) describes some “minimal” user information kept by the ISP. However, that information cannot be the “proxy authorization information” of claim 6 because, in column 1, line 60, Gutman says that “the ISP cannot really

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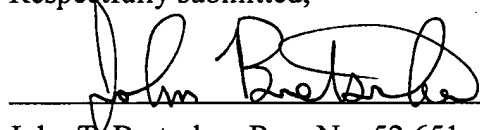
authenticate the user.” (In Gutman, the proxy authorization information is instead stored in an Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting service which is distinct from the ISP.) Thus, the cited portion of Gutman does not contain this element of claim 6.

In sum, the combination of the cited art simply does not show every element of the currently pending independent claims (1 and 6), and therefore the cited art neither anticipates nor renders obvious these independent claims. As all other currently pending claims depend from these claims, applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn and that all currently pending claims be allowed.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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